

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARD  
THE USE OF “BAHASA INDONESIA” IN ENGLISH CLASSROOMS:  
A CASE STUDY AT SD KRISTEN SATYA WACANA SALATIGA**

*YeEun Lee*

**Abstract**

Teachers' use of the first language is important to the students' comprehension in the second language classroom (Cook, 2001). Previous studies of the students' perceptions toward the use of Bahasa Indonesia have not dealt with in the elementary schools in Salatiga, Indonesia. The reason leads this study to find out the perceptions of the fifth and sixth-grade students in SD Kristen Satya Wacana Salatiga toward the teachers' use of Bahasa Indonesia in the English classroom. One hundred and twenty-two students were chosen to participate in this research. The data of this study were collected using a close-ended questionnaire. Analysis of this study revealed that the use of L1 by the teacher was needed in eight common situations, namely when: (a) giving instruction, (b) explaining difficult parts such as grammar, (c) explaining new words, (d) checking comprehension, (e) giving information about the learning materials, (f) explaining the assignments, tests and/or quizzes that will be given, (g) telling the students when to submit the assignments, test and/or quizzes and (h) explaining the differences between Indonesian and English related to grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation. Regarding the results, the use of L1 has the advantages in student English learning. The thesis concludes that the teachers' use of L1 could create a comfortable classroom atmosphere, save time and be effective tools in the English learning process.

**Keywords:** perceptions, Bahasa Indonesia, students' preferences